

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01740 071311Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 NEA-09 SAJ-01 /118 W
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R 071252Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5616

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1740

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL, IT

SUBJECT: HIGHER PRICES FOR DUTCH GAS TO ITALY

1. AT CONCLUSION OF LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DUTCH GASUNIE AND ITALIAN SNAM, NETHERLANDS' ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER LUBBERS INFORMED PARLIAMENT APRIL 2 OF REVISION OF EXISTING CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS TO ITALY, WITHOUT HOWEVER REVEALING DETAILS ABOUT NEW PRICE-SETTING.

2. MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INFORMS US THAT NEW CONTRACT, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, PROVIDES FOR GRADUAL INCREASE OF PRICE OF GAS CLOSELY LINKED TO PRICE OF OIL, WHILE MAGNITUDE OF SUPPLIES (SIX BILLION CUBIC METRES GAS PER YEAR) AND DELIVERY PERIOD (TWENTY YEARS) REMAIN UNCHANGED.

3. NEGOTIATIONS WERE PARTLY RESULT OF DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF FIXED GAS PRICE IN OLD CONTRACT OF FOUR CENTS PER CUBIC METRE (1 DOLLAR EQUALS 2.40 GUILDERS), WHICH WAS AGREED TO ON INSISTENCE OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER LUNS IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT ITALY FROM BUYING CHEAP RUSSIAN GAS.

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4. PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONCLUDED AFTER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BY LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF A LIMITATION IN ITS SUPPLY OF GAS
TO ITALY.
GOULD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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